

# The Town Crier

A Newsletter from the Town of Warrenton



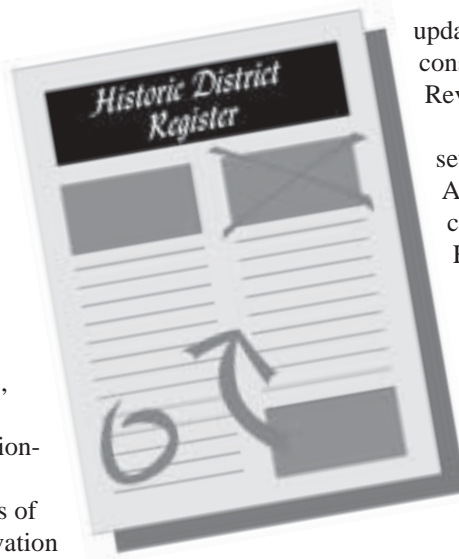
## Historic District Register Planned

### New Newsletter Will Highlight Historic District Issues

The next edition of the *Town Crier* will include a new newsletter specifically for residents, businesses, and others interested in Warrenton's acclaimed Historic District.

The *Historic District Register* will provide useful information to property owners in the Historic District, as well as owners of older homes throughout Warrenton. The goal is to provide timely information on issues pertaining to the maintenance of older homes and buildings, resources for obtaining architecturally approved materials, and advice by professionals.

The *Register* also will share the stories of property owners undergoing various renovation and maintenance projects in the Town, and



updates on significant applications being considered by the Warrenton Architectural Review Board.

The *Register* represents the first of several new initiatives by the Warrenton Architectural Review Board to enhance communication between the ARB and the Historic District community.

Finally, as a reminder, please keep in mind that the ARB generally meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The community always is invited to attend these public meetings, and anyone with an interest in the Historic District is encouraged to participate when possible. ■

## Town Website Enhanced

In September the Town of Warrenton launched an enhanced version of its website, [www.warrentonva.gov](http://www.warrentonva.gov). Many new features have been added to the site, including new tools that greatly assist the public in accessing helpful information via the Internet.

The site now has an entirely new and unique look and feel. In working with the Warrenton-based web development team at F1 Computer Solutions, Inc., the Town was able to revamp the site with all the latest technologies available. The new tools are easier to use, and provide

improved security and reliability.

The newest feature on the Town's website is a Citizen Portal called "My Town."

My Town is an area for citizens to create personal user

accounts that can be used for managing online payments.

Also added to the site is an all-new Help Desk. This tool provides citizens yet another way to communicate directly with Town staff to obtain information or address concerns. The Help Desk feature allows citizens to log on and send a message regarding a specific topic, which is then directed to the appropriate department for resolution.

Take a look at the Town's new website and explore the new features! We hope you'll enjoy the new tools, and that you'll come back to the site often for valuable information. ■



## Happy Fall!



## Do You Have Iced Tea On Tap?

If you've experienced any discoloration in your water lately (a rusty or iced tea color), no need to worry. As part of the Town's water line maintenance program, the Utility Department will be flushing water lines throughout the water system, between the hours of 8:00 PM and 2:00 AM through November 14, 2003.



The discoloration can easily be cleared by running your cold water wide open for two to seven minutes. Don't run the hot water! This only allows the discolored water to enter your hot water heater tank. If, after following this procedure, your water is still discolored, please contact Warrenton Utilities Superintendent, Richard Wines at (540) 347-1858 and a service person will respond to determine if a problem exists.

The Town of Warrenton realizes that discolored water is an inconvenience, and we appreciate the understanding and patience of our residents. Our flushing program is part of our effort to continue to provide you with the best possible water service. ■

## 'Tis the Season

If the coming winter is anything like the past spring and summer, it may mean a lot of precipitation --- **SNOW!** While you are thinking about how you may get around in deep snow this winter, the Town is thinking about how to dig out our streets. Our crews work very hard to get the roads clear as quickly as possible. You can do your part to help.

The Town Code has established several rules regarding snow and ice removal. The first one involves Snow Emergency Routes. The Streets listed below have been designated as "snow emergency routes," and it is unlawful for any person/business to park a vehicle on any of these streets during snow emergencies:

Alexandria Pike  
Blackwell Road  
Broadview Avenue  
Culpeper Street  
Falmouth Street  
Frost Avenue  
Lee Highway  
Main Street  
Shirley Avenue East  
Shirley Avenue West  
Waterloo Street  
Winchester Street



*Continued on page 3.*

## False Alarms Tax Police Resources

You may have noticed that the number of residences and businesses that have burglar alarm systems has increased dramatically. These systems can be very helpful in protecting citizens and assisting police. However, sometimes these systems have a tendency to signal alarms when there is no emergency situation, contributing to a growing number of calls for police service.

In the past three years, calls for police service have increased from 6,868 to 15,631 while police department staffing has remained the same. Many of these calls are caused by false burglar alarms. Whether the problem is human or equipment related, officers must still respond to each alarm to verify that it is not a legitimate alarm signal. This ties up department manpower and resources, which are being increasingly stretched. Worst of all, this can actually delay responses to true emergencies.

If you have a burglar alarm on your residence or business, you need to remember that there is a Town ordinance authorizing penalties for an excessive number of these false

alarms at a single location. In the past the Police Department has not needed to enforce this ordinance often, but in the near future it will be forced to fully enforce it.

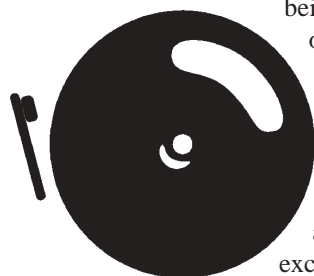
There are two things you can do to insure that your alarm system is not causing a burden on our police resources. First, make sure that all those with access to your system are correctly trained in arming and disarming the system. Second, insure that your system is operating correctly. If you suspect any possible malfunction, have the alarm system vendor who installed your system, or another qualified vendor, check it out.

The Code of the Town of Warrenton establishes the following fines for repeated false burglar alarms:

- ◆ Third Response: \$20.00
- ◆ Fourth Response: \$50.00
- ◆ Fifth Response: \$75.00
- ◆ Sixth Response: \$100.00
- ◆ Seventh Response: \$125.00
- ◆ Responses in excess of seven, each: \$150.00

# ALARM

The entire Code is available on the Town of Warrenton website: [www.warrentonva.gov](http://www.warrentonva.gov). ■



*'TIS THE SEASON, continued from page 2.*

Vehicles that are stalled, stuck, parked or abandoned on any of these streets during a snow emergency may be removed by the police at the owner's expense.

### On and Around Your Property

The Town's Code also requires the occupant of any house and lot which abuts a paved sidewalk or a footway of stone, brick or wood, to have all snow removed from the sidewalk or footway within six hours after the snow has ceased falling. The only exception is when the snow has fallen during the night or on a Sunday, in which case it must be removed by 12 noon of the following day.

In regard to ice and sleet, the same requirements are in effect with respect to sidewalks or footways. The only difference is that when sleet or ice cannot be removed without injury, sidewalks or footways must be covered within the times specified above with sand, ashes or some other substance which will render it safe for travel on foot.

If a house or lot is unoccupied, it is the duty of the owner, or the agent of the owner, to have the snow or ice removed from his sidewalk or footway in the same manner set forth above for occupants of properties. Each violation of the Code subsection is a class 4 misdemeanor, and every six hours that the snow or ice is allowed to remain in violation of the subsection constitutes a separate offense. It is also unlawful for any person removing ice or snow from his premises to place or deposit it upon any street or sidewalk.

Please help us as we attempt to make our Town streets safe and clean. Any questions regarding Town ordinances or snow emergency procedures may be directed to Public Works at (540) 347-1858. ■

## 2003 Taxes Due

The Town of Warrenton's Finance Department would like to remind all Town citizens that 2003 Personal Property and the second half of 2003 Real Estate taxes are due on December 15, 2003. If you have not received your Real Estate tax bill and your mortgage company is not responsible for payment, please give us a call at (540) 347-1101 or e-mail us at [staff@warrentonva.gov](mailto:staff@warrentonva.gov).

Personal Property Tax Relief for 2003 remains at 70%. Your personal property tax bill has been reduced by 70% on the first \$20,000 of value for your qualifying vehicle. The Town of Warrenton will be reimbursed by the Commonwealth for this amount once you have paid the balance due shown on your tax bill.

If your qualifying vehicle's value is \$1,000 or less, your tax has been eliminated and the Commonwealth's share is 100%. Tax relief was calculated using the Town of Warrenton's tax rates that were in effect on August 1, 1997. ■

## Papa's Got Brand New Bags!



Most Town of Warrenton residents know that the Town distributes free trash bags and blue recycling bags to any citizen who wants them. It's time again! Residents may pick up bags beginning October 15.

Each household may pick up one free box of 100 trash bags and a box of blue recycling bags. Businesses in the Town of Warrenton may also get the blue recycling bags.

The bags are available at the Public Works Facility (360 Falmouth Street) Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. For those who miss the fall bag distribution or can't come by during regular business hours, Public Works will also be open on Saturday, January 10, 2004 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

In order to claim your bags, you'll have to furnish proof that you're a Town resident or business. Bring a driver's license, utility bill, tax receipt or other document that has your name and address on it.

If you have any questions call Public Works at (540) 347-1858. ■

## O, Christmas Tree, O, Christmas Tree...

You may not have given much thought to the coming of the Christmas season yet, but we have! The Town has already made plans for recycling your used Christmas tree. When the holiday season has come and gone, Town crews will be collecting Christmas trees at the curbside Monday and Tuesday, January 5 and 6, 2004. All you have to do is strip your tree of all the ornaments, tinsel, stands, wood, wire, nails, etc., and have it down to the street side by 8:00 AM on either of the collection dates. Town crews will feed trees through a chipper and turn them into mulch for use around the Town.



Sorry, we can't come back if you miss the 8:00 AM deadline.

So why send that tree to the landfill? It can be recycled easily! If you have any questions about the tree pickup, call Public Works at (540) 347-1858. ■

## Holiday Refuse Collection Schedule

### Thanksgiving

**Monday 11/24/03** -- Regular refuse.

**Tuesday 11/25/03** -- Regular refuse.

**Wednesday 11/26/03** -- Regular recycling collections (cardboard, newspaper & blue bags).

**Thursday & Friday** -- Holidays; no refuse collection.

*NOTE: There will be a refuse truck available at the Public Works Facility (360 Falmouth Street), and also in the Oak Springs Plaza Shopping Center (Giant Shopping Center) in front of Tractor Supply during the holidays for anyone wishing to dispose of any excess trash. The Fauquier County Landfill will be open (normal hours) on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.*

### Christmas

**Monday 12/22/03** -- Regular refuse collection.

**Tuesday 12/23/03** -- Regular refuse collection.

**Wednesday 12/24/03** -- Regular recycling collection.

**Thursday 12/25/03** -- Holiday; no refuse collection.

**Friday 12/26/03** -- Regular refuse collections.

### New Year's Day

**Monday 12/29/03** -- Regular refuse collection.

**Tuesday 12/30/03** -- Regular refuse collection.

**Wednesday 12/31/03** -- Regular recycling collection.

**Thursday 1/1/04** -- Holiday; no refuse collection.

**Friday 1/2/04** -- Regular refuse collections plus Thursday's collection.

*Note: Refuse collections schedules for Christmas and New Year's holidays are subject to change. Check your local papers or the Town web page at a closer date, or call Public Works at (540) 347-1858.*

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Monday 1/19/04** -- Holiday; no refuse collection.

**Tuesday 1/20/04** -- Monday's regular refuse collection.

**Wednesday 1/21/04** -- Tuesday's regular refuse collection plus all recycling (Newspapers, cardboard & blue bags).

**Thursday 1/22/04** -- Regular refuse collection.

**Friday 1/23/04** -- Regular refuse collection.

*NOTE: There will be a refuse truck available at the Public Works Facility (360 Falmouth Street) during the holiday for anyone wishing to dispose of any excess trash. ■*

## Refuse Reminder

The Town of Warrenton offers several services for the collection of various types of refuse. Here's a reminder of what's available:

**Refuse Collection** -- The Town of Warrenton provides refuse collection twice a week for general household and business refuse. This collection is not for large items or debris. The Town does not pick up rocks, gravel, dirt, sod, stumps or building materials during this collection.

Refuse should be placed at the curbside or in your set location by 8:00 AM on your scheduled days. If necessary, trash can be placed out the night prior to the collection day, but no earlier. It is recommended that it be placed in cans to prevent animals from getting into it. It will be the resident's responsibility to clean up any spilled or scattered trash.

Trash can be placed in cans or bags. Cans should be no larger than 32 gallons; bags or cans should not weigh in excess of 75 pounds.



**Recycling Collection** -- Recycling collections are on Wednesdays. These include blue bags, newspaper and cardboard. All items should be set out by 8:00 AM on Wednesday morning.

Blue bags are for glass, plastics and aluminum and metal products only. Newspapers should be placed in paper bags or bundle with string. Corrugated cardboard is the only type of cardboard collected. If you are not on the permanent list for cardboard collection, you must call prior to 8:00 AM Wednesday morning to be placed on the list. Call (540) 347-1858.

**Brush Collection** -- This collection is for large limbs that can be fed through a chipper. Limbs should be placed at the curbside in an orderly fashion, making it easier to pick up and feed through a chipper. This collection is for brush and limbs that are cut by the resident or property owner. If a contractor or landscaper is hired, it is their responsibility to dispose of the brush.

Smaller limbs, clippings, grass and/or vines should be bundled or bagged and placed out with your household refuse. If you are bagging cut grass, do not fill bags to the top. Please allow room for bags to be closed. Also, do not load bags beyond their capacity.

**Special Collections** -- The Town provides a large item/debris collection twice a year (Spring and Fall Clean Up). If you need to dispose of large items at times other than during

*Continued on page 6.*



# Fall Leaf Collections Scheduled

Wondering what to do with all those leaves falling in your yard? The Town of Warrenton offers free leaf removal to its residents, and two collections have been scheduled this season: November 3 - 14, and December 8 - 19.

To take advantage of Town leaf collections, there are a few rules you'll need to follow. All property owners are requested to rake leaves to the street line by 8:00 AM on their first scheduled pick-up day. To prevent the clogging of water run-off areas, do not rake leaves into ditch lines or gutters, and please locate leaves so that vehicles are not blocking them.

Do not put brush, limbs, rocks or other debris with the leaves. This will make it impossible for Town crews to take your leaves. Please consult the map and collection schedule below to determine your collection dates.

If you have any questions please call Public Works at (540) 347-1858. ■

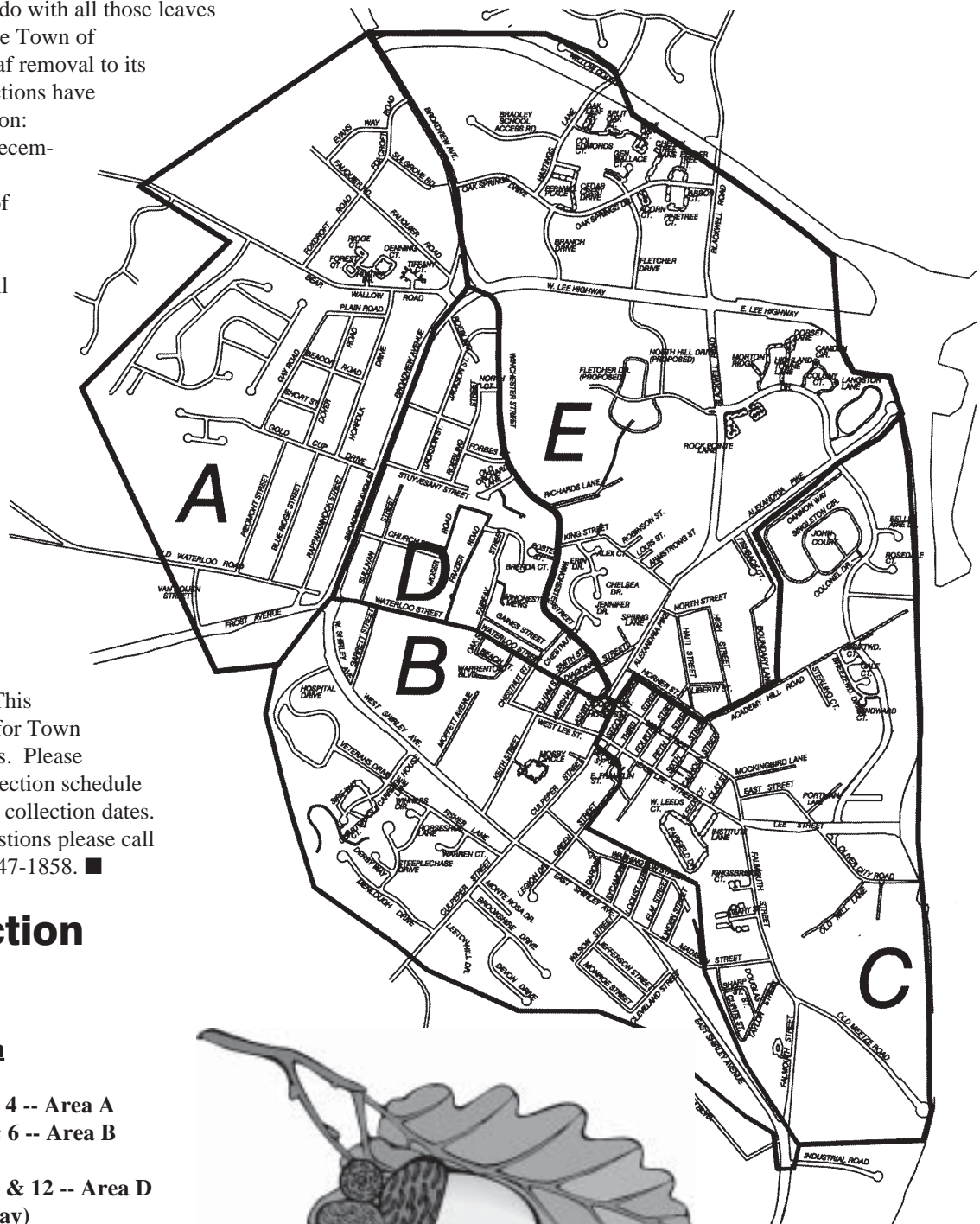
## Leaf Collection Schedule

### First Leaf Collection

Mon. & Tue., Nov. 3 & 4 -- Area A  
Wed. & Thu., Nov. 5 & 6 -- Area B  
Fri. Nov. 7 -- Area C  
Mon. & Wed., Nov. 10 & 12 -- Area D  
(Tue., Nov. 11 -- Holiday)  
Thu. & Fri., Nov. 13 & 14 -- Area E

### Second Leaf Collection

Mon. & Tue., Dec. 8 & 9 -- Area A  
Wed. & Thu., Dec. 10 & 11 -- Area B  
Fri. & Mon., Dec. 12 & 15 -- Area C  
Tue. & Wed., Dec. 16 & 17 -- Area D  
Thu. & Fri. Dec., 18 & 19 -- Area E





## Town Office Hours and Telephone Numbers

Town Office Hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

The area code is 540 unless otherwise noted.

Economic Development .....	347-6574
Finance Department .....	347-1102
Inspections .....	347-2405
Maintenance Shop .....	347-1858
Police Department	
Office of the Chief .....	347-1105
Police Station .....	347-1107
Non-emergency .....	347-1100
<b>Emergency .....</b>	<b>911</b>
Planning and Zoning .....	347-2405
Recycling .....	347-1858
Sewage Plant .....	347-1104
Town Hall .....	347-1101
Town Manager .....	347-4505
Utilities .....	347-6574
Water Bills .....	347-2678
Water Plant .....	347-1103
TTD/TTY .....	1-800-828-1120

**After Hours Water and Sewer Emergency  
347-1100**

## REFUSE REMINDER, cont. from page 4.

the Towns Clean up, it will be your responsibility to do so. The Town does not make special collections by request.

The Town provides fall and winter leaf collections (*see story on page 5*). Leaves should be raked to the roadside and Town crews will vacuum them up during the scheduled collections. If you need to dispose of leaves prior to or after the scheduled collections, please bag your leaves and place out with your regular refuse.

The Town picks up Christmas Trees in the early part of January (*see story on page 3*). All decorations, stands, wire, etc. should be removed. Place your tree at the curb by the scheduled days, and it will be picked up and chipped.

If you have any questions regarding any of the collections please call Public Works at (540) 347-1858. ■



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A Newsletter From the  
Town of Warrenton  
P.O. Drawer 341  
Warrenton, VA 20188-0341



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## The Town Crier

is published by the Warrenton Town Council to inform  
citizens of the major events which affect our government  
and community.

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